

K4C State Policy and Legislative Interests for 2019

Who we are

King County, and fifteen partners representing more than 1.6 million county residents — Bellevue, Burien, Issaquah, Kent, Kirkland, Mercer Island, Normandy Park, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, Seattle, Shoreline, Snoqualmie, and Tukwila, plus the Port of Seattle — are working together through the [King County-Cities Climate Collaboration \(K4C\)](#) to coordinate and enhance the effectiveness of local government climate and sustainability action.

Our Shared Climate Goals and Actions

In 2014, King County and all 39 cities formally adopted a shared target to reduce countywide sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at the county scale 25% by 2020, 50% by 2030, and 80% by 2050 (compared to a 2007 baseline). A dozen cities and the county, representing three quarters of the County's population mapped out [Joint County-City Climate Commitments](#) to meet this target, in areas ranging from transportation and land use to renewable energy to waste reduction and recycling. These policy interests are intended to advance shared climate commitments and to be a resource for local governments as they review state legislation, consider comment letters and weigh in on state policies as they develop. **We recognize that each K4C partner has unique policy and state legislative priorities and may not pursue all of these interests.**



Climate Policy

K4C supports comprehensive science-based limits and a market-based price on carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases.

- **Support a price on carbon based on best available science that reinvests a substantial share of revenues in efforts** to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (e.g., transit service, energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, forest protection and restoration), prioritize investments that benefit communities most impacted by climate change, and ensure a just transition for workers in fossil fuel industries.
- **Support policies that establish and use “cost of carbon” methods for analysis and decision making.**
- **Strengthen state climate change targets to align with the Department of Ecology’s 2016 recommendations which are complementary to K4C and Growth Management Planning Council adopted targets.**



Transportation and Land Use

K4C supports comprehensive state policies and investments that reduce emissions from the transportation sector by reducing vehicle miles travelled, lowering the GHG intensity of fuels, and catalyzing investments in clean passenger, transit, and heavy duty vehicles.

- **Support**, as part of a comprehensive strategy for reducing transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions:
 - **Protection for and expansion of funding for public transit;**
 - **Adoption of cleaner fuel standards;**
 - **Incentives and investments for electrification of public and private fleets** and lower pollution from transportation fuels;
 - **Continued funding and expansion as in previous years of the Commute Trip Reduction program** and the Regional Mobility Grant program.
 - **Policies and incentives to support transit friendly development and easy connections** in vicinity of planned rail and high capacity transit and employment centers.
 - Follow through on **principles for the VW Funding Settlement** developed by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency in partnership with King County and several K4C partners



Green Building and Energy Efficiency

K4C supports state policy changes and investments that will help us to reduce energy use in existing buildings 25% below 2012 levels by 2030 and achieve net-zero GHG

emissions in new buildings by 2030.

- **Continue to strengthen our Washington State Energy code**, leading the way to “net-zero emissions” buildings by 2030.
- **Support policies that reduce energy use** and save money for King County residents and businesses.
- **Provide State Department of Commerce grants** to leverage energy efficiency and renewable energy investments by local governments.



Energy Supply

K4C supports state policy updates and investments that will help us meet our goals for a 90% renewable electricity supply by 2030, phase out coal-fired electricity

sources by 2025, limit construction of new natural gas based electricity power plants, and lead to development of increasing amounts of renewable energy sources.

- **Continue to support a clear, accelerated timeline** for retirement of coal from PSE’s energy supply in manner that protects ratepayers and maximizes replacement with renewable sources rather than natural gas.
- **Support changes in the utility Integrated Resource Planning process** that promote consideration of environmental and health costs and greater emphasis on energy efficiency and demand management.
- **Require increasing percentages of new energy load to be met by renewable sources and energy efficiency.** Washington State’s current renewable portfolio standard is currently at 9% of utility load, increasing to 15% by 2020 and years beyond.
- **Support distributed solar energy generation.** Current state legislation limits the size of solar arrays that qualify for retail electricity rates and limits the cumulative generating capacity available for these renewable energy systems. We support policy changes that would expand utility limits for these systems and allow for development of larger solar installations while considering both the benefits of increased distributed solar energy generation and rate payer fairness.